

23. *TRIDIDEMNUM* DELLA VALLE 1881, AN UNRECORDED GENUS OF COLONIAL ASCIDIAN FROM INDIA

(With one text-figure)

The occurrence of the genus *Trididemnum* Della Valle 1881 is reported for the first time from India. A preliminary survey of the seas adjoining the southeast coast from Tuticorin to Rameswaram, carried out in 1993-1994, showed the presence of 26 genera of ascidians. Of these, 21 genera have been reported prior to 1986 by earlier workers (Oka 1915, Das 1938, 1940, 1945; Sebastian 1952, 1955, 1956; Renganathan and Monniot 1984, Renganathan 1981, 1982a,b, 1984, 1986a,b, Renganathan and Krishnaswamy 1985), and 4 genera have been reported relatively recently (Meenakshi and Renganathan 1997, Meenakshi 1998). The present paper adds one more genus of ascidian — *Trididemnum* — as a new record for Indian waters.

*Trididemnum cerebriforme*  
Hartmeyer 1913

A single colony was collected from the undersurface of calcrete rocks in the littoral zone of Ervadi (9° 11' N; 78° 43' E) (Fig. 1).

**Description:** Colony flat, encrusting, irregular, measuring 3 x 2.5 cm, surface smooth, tough, milky white with patches of green cells. The green colour changed to yellow on preservation. The superficial test has a thin layer of bladder cells. Below this is a continuous layer of spicules. The remaining part of the test has sparsely distributed spicules, decreasing further towards the base of the colony. Spicules large, measuring 0.04-0.06 mm with 9-12 pointed rays. Basal test thin, common cloacal aperture conspicuous. Zooids 1.5-1.75 mm long. Both siphons well developed. Branchial siphon has sphincter muscles and 6- small lobes. The atrial siphon arises from the posterior dorsal surface of the thorax. Three rows of stigmata, with 8-10

stigmata in each row. The gut forms a single loop with a spherical stomach situated half way down the abdomen and a short posterior stomach. 8-10 bands of longitudinal muscles. Testis undivided. The proximal part of the vas deferens coils 4 to 5 times. No larva was observed in the single colony studied (Fig. 1).

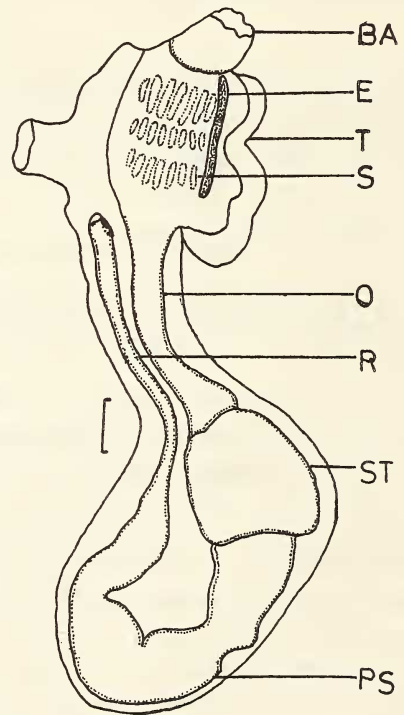


Fig. 1. *Trididemnum cerebriforme* - Zooid.  
BA- Branchial aperture, E: Endostyle, T: Thorax,  
S: Stigmata, O: Oesophagus, R: Rectum,  
ST: Stomach, PS: Posterior Stomach.  
Scale: 1 cm = 0.125 mm

**Distribution:** INDIA (Ervadi - ZSI-AS 13). Previously recorded from South Africa (Hartmeyer 1913, Millar 1955); southern Arabia (Kott 1957),

Australia (Kott 1962, 1972a,b, 1975, 1976); New Zealand (Michaelsen 1924); Philippines, Palau, Mariana, Hawaii Islands (Tokioka 1967); Japan Sea (Nishikawa 1990); Fiji (Kott 1981).

## REMARKS

The nature of the colony and the zooids of this specimen are identical with those previously described by Hartmeyer (1913), Millar (1955), and Kott (1976, 1981). The milky white appearance of the colonies, the posterior abdominal cloacal cavity, and the size of the spicules, their form and distribution, are

characteristics of the present species.

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## 24. RANGE EXTENSION FOR *STROMBUS PLICATUS SIBBALDI* (SOWERBY) (MOLLUSCA : MESOGASTROPODA : STROMBIDAE)

The Phylum Mollusca is well represented along the Indian coast. Most of the available literature is old and based on collections made in the late 18th or early 19th century. It is, therefore, desirable to update the information on the status and distribution of Indian molluscs.

As a result of a survey along the Gulf of Kutch in 1993, I came across a shell which was identified as *Strombus plicatus sibbaldi* (Sowerby). More specimens were collected during subsequent surveys along this Gulf. The literature gives its distribution as the eastern coast of India, there being no record of its presence along the west coast.

**Locality:** Okha and Mithapur along the Gulf of Kutch.

**Diagnosis:** Size: 35-40 mm. Among the smaller species; spires very tall and slender on large body whorl. Each spire bears two strong vertical ribs with many fine riblets. Both lips strongly serrated on inner margin. Colour: White with brown mottling. Aperture white with light brown transverse striae.

**Distribution:** The species was previously reported from the Bay of Bengal and northern Indian Ocean.

**Status:** Rare.

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## 25. NEW RECORD OF *ASTENOCYPRIS POPYRACEA* (SARS 1903), (CRUSTACEA, OSTRACODA) FROM WEST BENGAL, INDIA

(With eleven text-figures)

While studying zooplankton in the freshwaters of West Bengal, *Astenocypris popyracea* (Sars 1903) was found in one of the collections and is described and illustrated in this note. *Astenocypris popyracea* (Sars 1903) was first described from Sumatra and many other authors worked on this species, which belongs

to Class Ostracoda, Subclass Podocopa and Order Podocopida. Muller (1912) changed the genus name *Leptocypris* to *Astenocypris* under the Subfamily Herpetocypridinae. Hartman and Puri (1974) referred the genus to Subfamily Dolerocypridinae. Victor and Fernando (1981) suggested that the genus *Astenocypris* does not